

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSF-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5893

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, VE

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 291657

1. IT WOULD BE INACCURATE TO PERCEIVE THE SITUATION AS ONE IN WHICH THE GOV BELIEVES IT HAS A PENDING ISSUE WITH THE BALL IN ITS COURT. DESPITE THE WORDING OF THE FEBRUARY COMMUNIQUE (ISSUED AFTER THE SECRETARY'S VISIT), SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS ON AN S/T AGREEMENT WHICH WERE HELD WITH VARIOUS ENTITIES AT THE MIDDLE LEVEL DID NOT PROCEED VERY FAR. MANY OF THE OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE DEALT AT THAT TIME HAVE SINCE LEFT THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY IN THE GOV IS NOT APPARENTLY VERY LONG. THE "MORTON OFFER" GRUP (REFTEL) HAS NOT APPARENTLY PREPARED ANY REPORT. THE HEAD OF CONAN (THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR COMMISSION) RECENTLY EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN AN S/T AGREEMENT AS WELL AS HIS VIEW THAT THE GOV WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE. BUT CONAN (AS HE CONCEDES) IS NOT THE ENTITY WITH WHICH TO RENEW THESE DISCUSSIONS (THAT WOULD BE CORDIPLAN).

2. IN SHORT, WE CONCLUDE THAT WE ARE REALLY BACK AT SQUARE ONE, AND THAT IF AN S/T AGREEMENT IS TO BE CONCLUDED WE SHOULD AGAIN TAKE THE INITIATIVE. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE GOV WOULD BE RESPONSIVE AND WOULD WELCOME SUCH AN AGREEMENT; IT IS SIMPLY THAT DESPITE PREVIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSIONS THESE DID NOT CATALYZE ANY DEFINITIVE ACTION

WITHIN THE GOV AND THEY STILL AWAIT OUR INITIATIVE.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO CONCLUDE SUCH AN AGREEMENT, AND WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE REOPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH CORDIPLAN. WE BELIEVE THIS IS PARTICULARLY INDICATED IN VIEW OF THE PROBABLE UPCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF PRESIDENT PEREZ. SIGNING OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT IN WASHINGTON MIGHT BE VERY USEFUL.

4. BEFORE REOPENING DISCUSSIONS, HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT GENERALLY WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO. IF THERE ARE ANY STANDARD TEXTS THAT IT IS RECOMMENDED WE FOLLOW (E.G. THE KOREAN AGREEMENT), WE WOULD APPRECIATE THEIR BEING AIRPOUCHED. THE CONAN DIRECTOR INFORMED US THAT VENEZUELA HAS S/T AGREEMENTS WITH A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE USSR, AND THAT THESE FOLLOW A STANDARD FORMAT. HE GAVE US, ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, A COPY OF THE SPANISH AGREEMENT AS A SAMPLE, AND THIS IS BEING AIRPOUCHED TO ARA/AND.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE US WITH GUIDANCE FOR RENEWING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOV, AND WITH ANY TEXTS THAT WE COULD USE AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT.
VAKY

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